

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD-RI
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MARCH 9, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present: Brandon Melton; Sharon Moylan, Adelita Orefice, Martin Trueb
Members Absent: Robert Paniccia, Jack Warner
Staff Present: Michael Koback, Dottie Miller, Lori DelRossi, Sharon Petrarca
Marsha McDowell

With a quorum present, Chair B. Melton called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He stated that the agenda included both Summer Youth Employment Programs; the "Yes-2-Work" Summer Program for youth ages 16 to 19, and the "We-Can-2" Summer Program for youth ages 14-15 that the committee is focusing on this year.

Ms. Orefice reported that there were a number of governing structures besides the Governor's Workforce Board designed to focus on employment, economic development, and education and that one of the issues she is addressing is that it is challenging to get them talking to each other. She noted that one of them was the Governor's Pre-K-16 Council, who focus on outcomes for kids academically in the K-12 system as well as college. She added that another place these conversations are taking place is the Children's Cabinet and that as the DLT person serving on that cabinet she is often bringing the work of this committee to that venue.

She stated that the Cabinet has been working to develop a statewide student identifier, so they can track students in the K-12 system to see what happens to them, adding that from a Higher Education perspective, they are trying to figure out what is happening to kids in college, that preparation and what that means for them in the workforce. She noted that Paul Harrington from Northeastern University Bureau of Labor Statistics is working with the DLT to connect wage record data with higher education graduation data to see what is happening to our graduates; are they getting jobs and where are they getting jobs. Simultaneously, they are trying to track what happens to the high school graduate going into higher education in Rhode Island, so there is a continuance of conversation. One of the issues this committee would be addressing as a long range goal is connecting what happens to kids in the K-12 system who don't go on to college, and what happens to them in the workforce.

Ms. Orefice reported that the Department has started conversations with the federal government on apprenticeships. At a future meeting of this committee, a representative from the US Department of Labor will be invited to report on the status of apprenticeships nationally. Director Orefice also reported that as a result of conversations with Todd Flaherty from the Department of Education a representative from the Department of Education will be asked to attend the Youth Development Committee meetings in the future.

D. Miller reported out on the Kick-Off Breakfast for the "YES-2-Work" Summer Jobs Program being held on March 23, 2006 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Warwick. She explained that "Save the Date" flyers were sent to the 120 companies identified at the last meeting. L. DelRossi stated that an additional twenty companies expressed an interest in the program at the Workforce Improvement Grant Pre-Proposal Conference

on February 1st. Miller noted that 220 flyers were sent to the Chief Executive Officers and Human Resource Directors for each company as well as Executive Directors of the Chambers of Commerce and the Mayors of Providence, Pawtucket and Cranston Mayors. She added that the formal invitations from the Governor's Office would be mailed that day.

The committee members discussed making follow up phone calls to their peers at some of the target companies such as Amgen, TACO, Toray, Collette Tours, CVS, Textron, and G-Tech.

Chairman Melton noted to review the revised agenda that was drafted for the Kick-Off Breakfast for the "YES – 2-Work" Summer Jobs Program scheduled for Thursday, March 23, 2006 at the Crown Plaza Hotel. D. Miller directed the committee's attention to the draft agenda in their folders and the other materials including the Company Contact Sheet which will be dispersed at the breakfast, asking companies to sign on and identify what services they would provide to the Summer Employment Program.

A motion was then entered to approve the three sets of minutes from Youth Development Committee meetings held on 11/4/05, 12/9/05 and 2/6/06.

VOTE: S. Moylan moved to approve, seconded by M. Trueb. All approved.

L. DelRossi addressed the 2006 "We-Can-2" Summer Youth Employment Program for youth ages 14-15. She explained that services would be solicited through a Request For proposals (RFP) process. She outlined the following timeline for the committee of:

RPF Issue Date:	March 13, 2006
Bidders' Conference:	March 15, 2006
Proposal Due Date:	April 14, 2006
Proposal Review and Recommendations:	April 17 - 25
Grant Awards Voted / GWB Board Meeting	May
Start Date	May

L. Del Rossi further explained that youth program activities requested in the RFP would focus on career awareness and job readiness skills for a minimum of 20 hours per week and run for 7 weeks. She added that participating youth would receive an incentive of up to \$100.00 per week. She noted that there was no program size or funding cap but that the intent was to put out as much money as possible to serve as many youth as possible, and encourage applicants to recruit from economically disadvantaged, minority and disabled populations.

The committee decided to schedule the next meeting of the Youth Development Committee on April 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha McDowell